



**To: Mayor Mark Kruzan
Common Council of the City of Bloomington**

**From: Jim Sims, Chair
Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males**

Re: Annual Report from the Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

Date: March 11, 2005

The City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males was created to address the problems faced by African-American males in the areas of health, employment, criminal justice, and education. The purpose and duties of the group include, in part, to serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to address the multi-faceted problems confronting Black males in the community, to organize and convene community forums and focus groups to discuss the status of Black males, and to network with like-minded groups in the community and the state. The seven members of the Commission include Commission Chair Jim Sims (Mayoral appointee), William Knox, Chair during 2004 (Common Council), Larry Brown (Human Rights Commission appointee), Cedric Harris (Mayor), Paulette Patterson Dilworth (Mayor), Genevieve Williamson (Common Council), and David Hummons (Martin Luther King Commission). Staff support is provided by Liaison Craig Brenner and Program Assistant Lee Bowlen.

The Commission has completed its fourth year, and it was a productive one. Following the success of our 2003 Town Hall Meeting on the topic of employment, we decided in 2004 to address the areas of education and criminal justice, particularly the linkage between the two as they affect Black Males in Bloomington. After analyzing statistics provided by the Monroe County Community School Corporation and studying the report and recommendations of the Monroe County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF), we decided to sponsor a Town Hall Meeting on "Race, School Discipline, and Criminal Justice." After meeting with and soliciting input from experts on education both within and outside the school corporation, and after meeting with some of the principal individuals responsible for the RJTF report, we were able to select an outstanding panel for the Town Hall Meeting. Several of these panelists were also guests on the WFIU radio program Noon Edition on Friday, September 17, where they were able to preview information they would subsequently present at the Town Hall Meeting.

On September 28, 2005, the Town Hall Meeting took place. Panelists each presented information on aspects of our topic with which they were most familiar, followed by the public.

The Herald-Times reported on the results of the Town Hall Meeting on the front page of its September 29, 2005 edition, and a copy of the article is attached to this report. Photos from the Town Hall Meeting, a videotape of which has been shown several times on Community Access Television Services (CATS), are also attached to this report.

As a result of the information presented and shared at the Town Hall Meeting, John Maloy, Superintendent of MCCSC, attended two subsequent monthly meetings of the Commission. In addition, he convened a group consisting of representatives from the Commission and from the MCCSC, the purpose of which is to meet monthly and address the issues revealed by the Town Hall Meeting. This group, called the MCCSC Human Understanding and Diversity Forum, is an on-going project, and we feel confident it will enable the community in general and the school corporation in particular to address the effects of racism which have disproportionately affected African Americans in our community. Please see the attached article from the January 21, 2005 *Herald-Times* for more information about the MCCSC Human Understanding and Diversity Forum.

In addition to the positive outcomes regarding education, the Commission has also gone on record in support of seven recommendations of the Racial Justice Task Force that were presented at the Town Hall Meeting by panelist and RJTF member Guy Loftman. Those recommendations are attached, and we believe their full implementation will have a positive impact on those involved with the criminal justice system in Monroe County.

The Commission worked with Mayor Kruzan and the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department during 2004 to rename Ninth Street Park in honor of Rev. Ernest D. Butler. A ceremony officially doing so will take place on June 26, 2005. Commissioner Jim Sims was most involved in this effort.

The Commission is beginning to work with the Monroe County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition. By so doing we hope eventually to positively impact the health of African American Males. We are also working with the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, the Executive Director of which attended several of our meetings.

The Commission held a planning retreat last fall, and this retreat has helped determine our goals for 2005.

For detailed information on the activities of the Commission, please refer to the City's Web site at www.bloomington.in.gov/cfrd.

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACK MALES

Summary of Data on Disproportionality in the Expulsion of Black Male Students in Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) High Schools

OVERVIEW

The following summary was prepared by the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males for the Town Hall meeting on Race, School Discipline, and Criminal Justice to be held September 28, 2004. Panelists are asked to respond to the data summarized here. The data suggests that Black students in MCCSC high schools were more likely to be expelled, and were expelled for more days on average than their White peers. While expulsions for White students dropped over the three year 2000-2003 time period, they increased for Black students. Close to half of the expulsions were a result of either drug use/possession or violence (fighting, threats), while the remainder were for either disruptive behavior or truancy. There was no apparent difference between races for the reason for expulsion.

DATA SOURCE AND ANALYSIS

The data represent expulsions of students from Bloomington High School North (BHSN) and Bloomington High School South (BHSS) from August 2000 through April 2003. Data were collected by MCCSC and provided to the commission at the commission's request. Data were analyzed according to methods recommended by Dr. Russ Skiba, Indiana University, who is a recognized expert in school-wide discipline and related policies (see attached sheet on indices of disproportionality for an explanation). Data were analyzed by Dr. Genevieve Williamson, associate professor of special education at Indiana University, a commission member.

ENROLLMENT

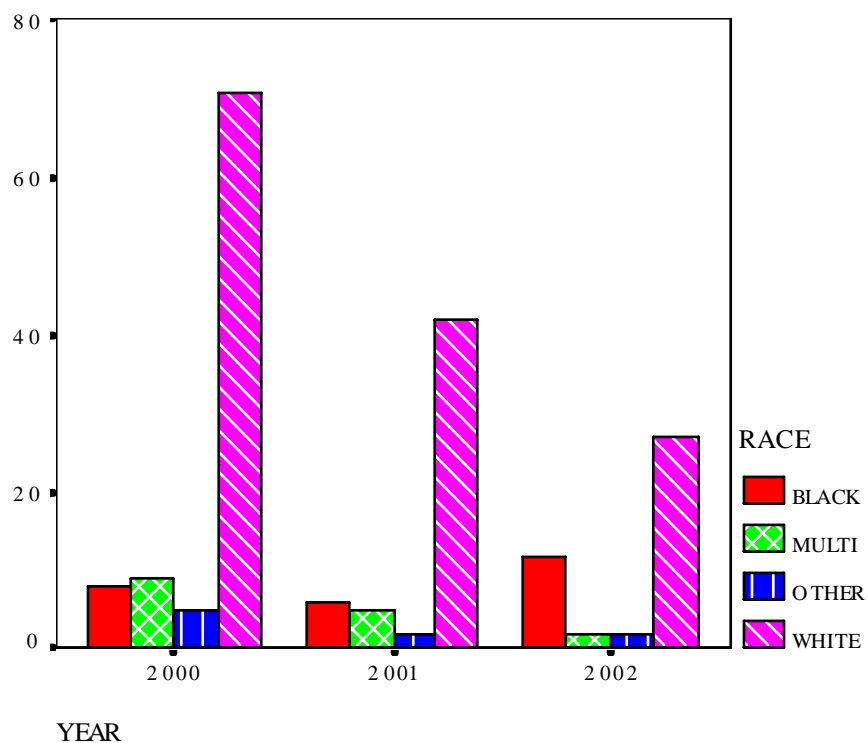
Total Enrollment in Bloomington High School South (BHSS) & Bloomington High School North (BHSN) by Ethnicity

	2000-01 School Year		2001-02 School Year		2002-03 School Year	
	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students
White	2739	94	2694	91	2619	88
Black	109	2	103	2	106	2
Native American	16	<1	40	1	51	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	74	1	97	2	125	3
Hispanic	44	1	54	1	52	1
Multi-racial	85	2	107	3	145	4
Total	3067	100	3095	100	3098	100

EXPULSIONS BY RACE 2000-03

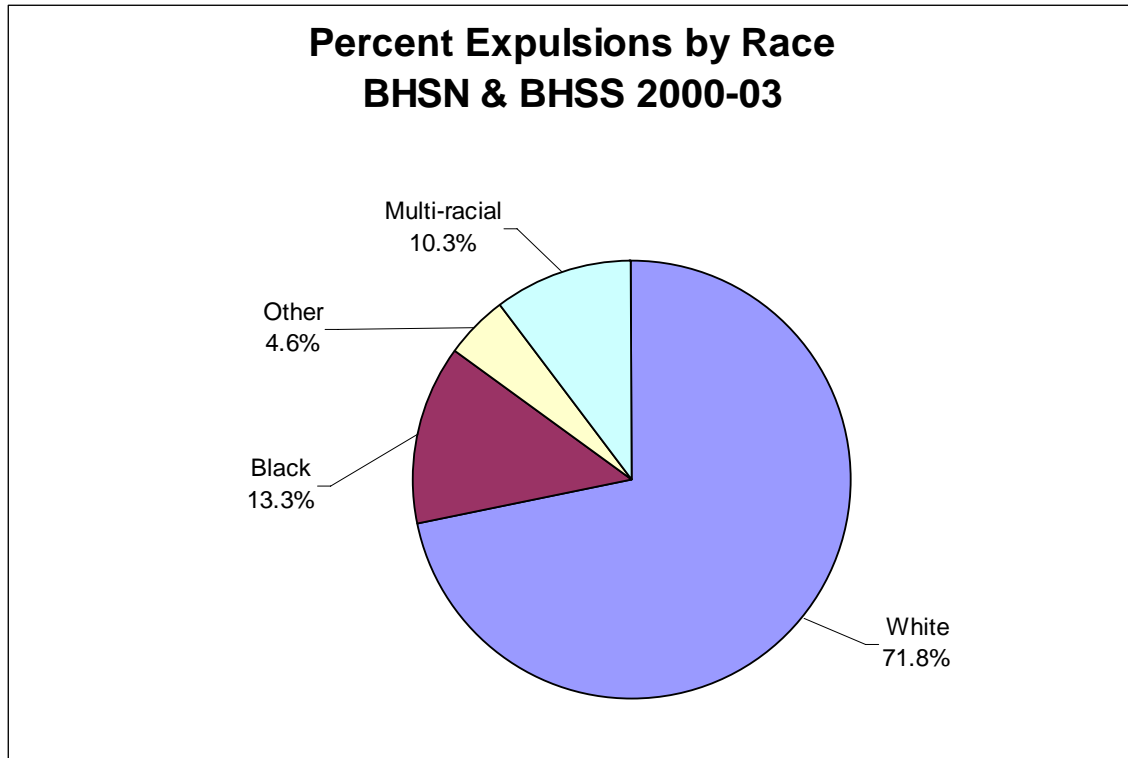
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
	Number of Students	Number of Students	Number of Students	Total
White	71	42	27	140
Black	8	6	12	26
Other	5	2	2	9
Multi-racial	9	5	2	16
Total	93	55	43	191

Total Expulsions for BHSS and BHSN, 2000-003



- Numbers do not include 10 students who were identified to be expelled and offered an Alternative to Expulsion instead (ATE).
- ** “Other” ethnicities include Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic

COMPOSITION INDEX (CI). Proportion of expelled students who are Black from BHSS and BHSN in the years 2000-2003 combined is 13.3%. This is considerably larger than the enrollment for Black students of 2%. In all, minority students, including those who identify themselves as Multi-racial, made up 28.2% of reported expulsions while making up 12% of the total enrollment.



RISK INDEX (RI) FOR BLACK MALES.** Percentage of Black Students who were expelled. The Risk Index is calculated by dividing the number of expulsions of Black students by the total enrollment of Black students for that year.

RI 2000-01 = 7% of Black Students were expelled

RI 2001-02 = 6% of Black Students were expelled.

RISK INDEX (RI) FOR WHITE STUDENTS: percentage of WHITE students who have been expelled. The RI for WHITE male students is presented by year:

RI 2000-01 = 2.5% of White Students were expelled

RI 2001-02 = 1.5% of White Students were expelled.

**** Note: The RI and RRR for 2002-03 were not calculated because only data for male expulsions were provided for that year, and enrollment represents both genders.**

Relative Risk Ratio (RRR): A comparison of the risk indices for two groups, Black students and White students. It illustrates the degree to which Black students are more or

less likely than their White peers to be expelled. It is calculated by dividing the Risk Index of Black Students by the RI of White students. While RRR differs per each year, there is evidence that Blacks are more likely to be expelled than Whites.

RRR2000-01= 2.8, Black students were 2.8 times more likely to be expelled than White Students this year

RRR2001-02= 4, Black students were 4 times more likely to be expelled than White students this year.

NUMBER OF DAYS EXPELLED.

The average number of days students were expelled was calculated by Race. Black students were expelled on average for more days, as much as 15 more days than White Students.

	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Black	80	79	40
Multi	65	64	47
Other	54	46	49
White	65	60	40

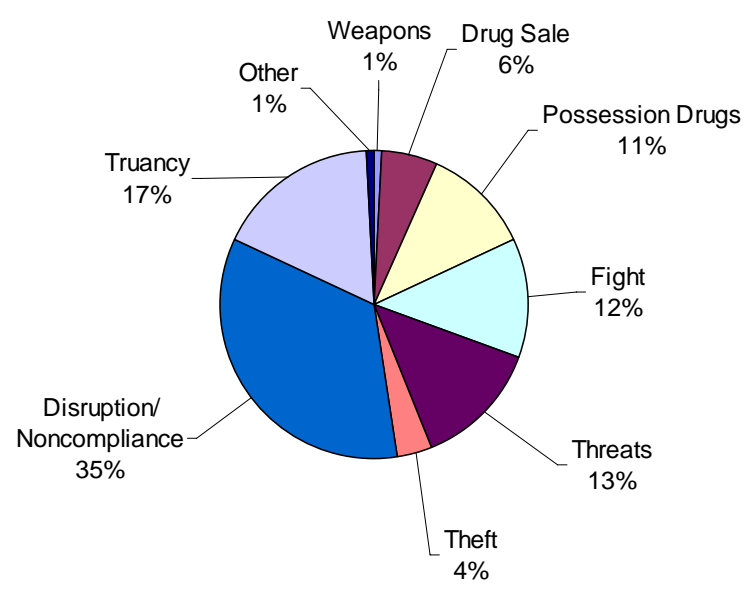
REASON FOR EXPULSION

The reported reasons for expulsion for male high school students were categorized by the most serious offense reported for each student, with selling drugs and possession of weapons and/or drugs considered the most serious, truancy the least. There is no indication from these data that Black students commit more serious offenses than White students.

Reasons for Expulsion for Male Students BHSS & BHSN, 2000-03

	White	Black	Multiracial	Other	Total
Possession Drugs	12	2	0	0	14
Selling Drugs	6	0	1	0	7
Weapons	1	1	2	2	6
Fight	13	4	2	0	19
Disruption/Noncompliance	37	8	5	4	54
Truancy	17	3	0	0	20
Threats	14	5	2	0	21
Theft	4	1	0	0	5
Other	1	0	1	0	2
Total	105	24	13	6	148

Reasons for Expulsions: White HS Students 2000-03



Reasons for Expulsions: Black HS Students 2000-03

